

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A device, comprising:

a tibia base plate;

an insert adapted to be positioned above said base plate; and

at least one removable pin that, when installed, engages at least a portion of said insert and said base plate to thereby prevent relative rotation between said insert and said base plate.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said base plate is comprised of a metal.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said insert is comprised of a non-metallic material.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin engages an opening formed in said base plate and engages an opening formed in said insert.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin is located adjacent an anterior portion of said base plate.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said pin is secured in an opening in said base plate by at least one of a press-fit connection, a threaded connection, and a sintered connection.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin has a head that is positioned adjacent a bottom surface of said base plate.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin has a shoulder that is positioned adjacent a top surface of said base plate.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein a first portion of said pin is configured to engage an opening formed in a side surface of said base plate and a second portion of said pin is configured to engage an opening formed in a side surface of said insert.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein said openings in said tibia base plate and said insert are formed on anterior side surfaces of said base plate and said insert, respectively.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin has at least one of a circular, rectangular and square cross-sectional configuration.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin has a smooth exterior surface.

13. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin has at least one projection formed on an exterior surface of said pin.

14. The device of claim 1, wherein said pin is comprised of a metal.

15. A device, comprising:

a tibia base plate;

an insert adapted to be positioned above said base plate; and
a removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base
plate.

5 16. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative
rotation between said insert and said base plate comprises a removable pin.

10 17. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative
rotation between said insert and said base plate comprises at least one removable pin that,
when installed, engages at least a portion of said insert and said base plate to thereby prevent
relative rotation between said insert and said base plate.

18. The device of claim 15, wherein said base plate is comprised of a metal.

15 19. The device of claim 15, wherein said insert is comprised of a non-metallic
material.

20 20. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative
rotation between said insert and said base plate engages an opening formed in said base plate
and engages an opening formed in said insert.

25 21. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative
rotation between said insert and said base plate is located adjacent an anterior portion of said
base plate.

22. The device of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate is secured in an opening in said base plate by at least one of a press-fit connection, a threaded connection, and a sintered connection.

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23. The device of claim 15, wherein a first portion of said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate is configured to engage an opening formed in a side surface of said base plate and a second portion of said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate is configured to engage an opening formed in a side surface of said insert.

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24. The device of claim 23, wherein said openings in said tibia base plate and said insert are formed on anterior side surfaces of said base plate and said insert, respectively.

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25. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate has at least one of a circular, rectangular and square cross-sectional configuration.

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26. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate has a smooth exterior surface.

27. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate has at least one projection formed on an exterior surface of said pin.

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28. The device of claim 15, wherein said removable means for preventing relative rotation between said insert and said base plate is comprised of a metal.

29. A method, comprising:

5 obtaining a prosthetic knee assembly comprised of a tibia base plate, a tibia insert and a removable pin, said assembly being adapted to be configured in a first state such that said tibia insert may rotate relative to said base plate or in a second state such that said tibia insert cannot rotate relative to said base plate;

making at least one incision adjacent a patient's knee;

10 installing said prosthetic knee assembly in said patient, wherein said removable pin is removed such that said assembly is in said first state wherein said tibia insert may rotate relative to said tibia base plate; and

closing said at least one incision.

15 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said removable pin is adapted to engage both said tibia insert and said tibia base plate.

20 31. The method of claim 29, wherein said removable pin is adapted to engage, at least partially, an opening formed in said tibia base plate and an opening formed in said tibia insert.

25 32. The method of claim 29, wherein said pin is adapted to extend through an opening formed in said base plate and a portion of said pin is positioned in an opening formed in said tibia insert.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein said removable pin is adapted to engage, at least partially, an opening formed in a side surface of said tibia base plate and an opening formed in a side surface of said tibia insert.

5 34. A method, comprising:

obtaining a prosthetic knee assembly comprised of a tibia base plate, a tibia insert and a removable pin, said assembly being adapted to be configured in a first state such that said tibia insert may rotate relative to said base plate or in a second state such that said tibia insert cannot rotate relative to said base plate;

10 making at least one incision adjacent a patient's knee;

installing said prosthetic knee assembly in said patient, wherein said removable pin is left in place such that said assembly is in said second state wherein said tibia insert cannot rotate relative to said tibia base plate; and

closing said at least one incision.

15 35. The method of claim 34, wherein said removable pin is adapted to engage both said tibia insert and said tibia base plate.

20 36. The method of claim 34, wherein said removable pin is adapted to engage, at least partially, an opening formed in said tibia base plate and an opening formed in said tibia insert.

25 37. The method of claim 34, wherein said pin is adapted to extend through an opening formed in said base plate and a portion of said pin is positioned in an opening formed in said tibia insert.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein said removable pin is adapted to engage, at least partially, an opening formed in a side surface of said tibia base plate and an opening formed in a side surface of said tibia insert.

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39. A method, comprising:

providing a tibia base plate having a removable pin positioned in an opening formed in said tibia base plate;

positioning said tibia base plate on a tibia of a patient; and

10 positioning a tibia insert above said tibia base plate, wherein at least a portion of said removable pin is positioned in an opening formed in said tibia insert to thereby prevent relative motion between said tibia insert and said tibia base plate.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising removing said pin from said
15 openings in said tibia base plate and said tibia insert to thereby allow said tibia insert to rotate relative to said tibia base plate.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein said pin has a head that is adapted to engage
a bottom surface of said base plate.

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42. The method of claim 39, wherein said pin has a shoulder that is adapted to engage a top surface of said base plate.